[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

117TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

H.R.

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide authority for certain licenses, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. Rodgers of Washington introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide authority for certain licenses, and for other purposes.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "Satellite And Tele-
- 5 communications Streamlining Act of 2022" or the "SAT
- 6 Streamlining Act of 2022".

1	SEC. 2. AUTHORITY REGARDING CERTAIN LICENSES.
2	(a) AMENDMENT.—Part I of title III of the Commu-
3	nications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) is amended
4	by adding at the end the following new section:
5	"SEC. 345. RADIOFREQUENCY LICENSING AUTHORITY RE-
6	GARDING CERTAIN OPERATIONS.
7	"(a) Rules.—
8	"(1) In general.—Not later than 18 months
9	after the date of the enactment of this section, the
10	Commission shall issue rules to amend part 25, title
11	47, Code of Federal Regulations, to establish for li-
12	censes granted under subsection (b) or a request for
13	a grant of market access granted under subsection
14	(e)—
15	"(A) in accordance with paragraph (2),
16	specific performance objectives for space safety
17	and orbital debris requirements;
18	"(B) specific modifications (or classes of
19	modifications) to a license granted under sub-
20	section (b)(1) that warrant expedited treatment
21	under subsection (f)(2);
22	"(C) specific actions taken by a licensee of
23	a license granted under subsection (b)(1) or a
24	grantee that has been granted market access
25	under subsection (e)(1) that constitute good
26	faith coordination;

1	"(D) a quantifiable level of protection re-
2	quired under subsection (g)(2); and
3	"(E) for a licensee described in subsection
4	(b)(1) or a grantee described in subsection
5	(c)(1), a date upon which to sunset any pre-
6	vious protection from harmful interference be-
7	tween processing rounds.
8	"(2) Conflict pre-emption by interagency
9	STANDARD PRACTICES.—In the rules issued pursu-
10	ant to paragraph (1)(A), or any successor rule, the
11	Commission may not establish performance objec-
12	tives that conflict with any standard practice estab-
13	lished in the Orbital Debris Mitigation Standard
14	Practices adopted by the United States Government.
15	"(b) Application for License.—
16	"(1) NGSO DETERMINATION REQUIRED.—
17	[Notwithstanding sections 4(i), 303(r), and 303(y),
18	the authority of the Commission to require such
19	other information under sections 308(b) and
20	309(a), and except as provided in paragraph (5),
21	not later than 1 year after the date on which a writ-
22	ten application is submitted to the Commission, the
23	Commission shall make a determination whether to
24	grant such application for a license for—

1	"(A) a nongeostationary orbit space station
2	or space-station constellation and earth sta-
3	tion(s);
4	"(B) a nongeostationary orbit space sta-
5	tion and the blanket-licensed earth stations that
6	will operate with the nongeostationary orbit
7	space station; or
8	"(C) a nongeostationary orbit space-station
9	constellation and the blanket-licensed earth sta-
10	tions that will operate within the nongeo-
11	stationary orbit space-station constellation.
12	"(2) GSO DETERMINATION REQUIRED.—Not
13	later than 1 year after the date on which a written
14	application is submitted to the Commission and ex-
15	cept as provided in paragraph (5), the Commission
16	shall make a determination whether to grant such
17	application for a license for a geostationary orbit
18	space station or space-station constellation and earth
19	stations.
20	"(3) Contents of Application.—In addition
21	to the application requirements described in section
22	308(b), an application submitted under paragraph
23	(1) or (2) shall include the following:

1	"(A) Performance metrics with respect to
2	the frequencies and transmission power to be
3	used.
4	"(B) A description of compliance by the
5	applicant with the performance objectives and
6	actions established under subparagraphs (A)
7	and (C) of subsection (a)(1) and, in the case of
8	an application submitted under paragraph (1)
9	of this subsection, subsection (a)(1)(D).
10	"(4) TERM OF INITIAL LICENSE.—The Com-
11	mission shall grant a license for a term not to exceed
12	15 years for any application granted under this sub-
13	section.
14	"(5) Exceptions.—The deadline for the deter-
15	mination required in paragraphs (1) and (2) may be
16	extended by the Commission for an application—
17	"(A) subject to review under section
18	310(d); and
19	"(B) for frequencies that have not been al-
20	located in the United States for the proposed
21	service.
22	"(6) Timely grant of certain applica-
23	TIONS.—
24	"(A) Grant of application re-
25	QUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the date

1	on which the Commission receives a written ap-
2	plication for a license described in paragraph
3	(1) that the Commission determines meets the
4	additional criteria described in subparagraph
5	(B), the Commission shall grant such applica-
6	tion.
7	"(B) Criteria described.—The addi-
8	tional criteria described in this subparagraph
9	are as follows:
10	"(i) A limit on the number of space
11	stations a constellation contains, as deter-
12	mined by the Commission.
13	"(ii) A limit on the total in-orbit life-
14	time for any individual space station, as
15	determined by the Commission.
16	"(iii) For each space station, the fol-
17	lowing:
18	"(I) A limit on the orbital alti-
19	tude at which the space station may
20	operate, as determined by the Com-
21	mission.
22	"(II) A requirement that the
23	space station has a maneuverability
24	capability and the ability to make col-
25	lision avoidance and deorbit maneu-

1	vers, as determined by the Commis-
2	sion.
3	"(III) A requirement that each
4	space station is identifiable by a
5	unique signal-based telemetry marker
6	that meets requirements issued by the
7	Commission.
8	"(IV) A requirement that the
9	space station releases no operational
10	debris.
11	"(V) A requirement that the
12	space station can be commanded by
13	command originating from the ground
14	to immediately cease transmissions
15	and the applicant has the capability to
16	eliminate harmful interference when
17	required by the Commission.
18	"(iv) A requirement that the operator
19	has assessed and limited the probability of
20	an accidental explosion, including an explo-
21	sion that results from the conversion of en-
22	ergy sources on board any space station
23	into energy that fragments the space sta-
24	tion.

1	"(v) A limit on the probability of a
2	collision between each space station and
3	any other large object, as determined by
4	the Commission.
5	"(vi) A requirement that each space
6	station is disposed of post-mission through
7	atmospheric re-entry and the probability of
8	human casualty from such re-entry meets
9	requirements issued by the Commission.
10	"(C) Implementation.—Not later than
11	60 days after the date of the enactment of this
12	subparagraph, the Commission shall—
13	"(i) issue rules to implement this
14	paragraph; or
15	"(ii) make the finding described in
16	subparagraph (D).
17	"(D) FINDING DESCRIBED.—If the Com-
18	mission finds that the rules of the Commission,
19	as of the date of the enactment of this para-
20	graph, satisfy the requirements in this para-
21	graph, the Commission shall issue a public no-
22	tice stating such finding.
23	"(c) Application for Grant of Market Ac-
24	CESS.—

1	"(1) Determination required.—[Notwith-
2	standing sections 4(i), 303(r), and 303(y), the au-
3	thority of the Commission to require such other in-
4	formation under sections 308(b) and 309(a), the
5	Commission shall make a determination whether to
6	grant a written application submitted to the Com-
7	mission for market access within the United States
8	for—
9	"(A) a nongeostationary orbit space station
10	or space-station constellation and earth sta-
11	tion(s);
12	"(B) a nongeostationary orbit space sta-
13	tion and the blanket-licensed earth stations that
14	will operate with the nongeostationary orbit
15	space station; or
16	"(C) a nongeostationary orbit space-station
17	constellation and the blanket-licensed earth sta-
18	tions that will operate within the nongeo-
19	stationary orbit space-station constellation.
20	"(2) Contents of Application.—In addition
21	to the application requirements described in section
22	308(b), an application submitted under this sub-
23	section shall include the following:

1	"(A) Performance metrics with respect to
2	the frequencies and transmission power to be
3	used.
4	"(B) A description of compliance by the
5	applicant with the performance objectives and
6	actions established under subparagraphs (A)
7	and (C) of subsection (a)(1) and, in the case of
8	an application submitted under paragraph (1)
9	of this subsection, subsection $(a)(1)(D)$.
10	"(3) TERM OF INITIAL LICENSE.—The Com-
11	mission shall grant a license for a term not to exceed
12	15 years for any application granted under this sub-
13	section.
14	"(d) Determination of Public Interest, Con-
15	VENIENCE, AND NECESSITY.—Before making a deter-
16	mination to grant an application, renewal, or modification
17	under subsection (b)(1), (c)(1), (e), (f), or (l) (as the case
18	may be), the Commission shall determine if the license,
19	grant, or authorization (as the case may be) serves the
20	public interest, convenience, and necessity, including—
21	"(1) in the case of a license or grant to which
22	subsection (g)(2) applies, the license or grant does
23	not exceed the quantifiable level of protection estab-
24	lished in subsection $(g)(2)$; and

1 "(2) a license or grant required to protect radio 2 astronomy observatories by the International Tele-3 communication Union has reached a mutually ac-4 ceptable agreement with radio astronomy observ-5 atories (or their designee) regarding the protection 6 of such observatories. 7 "(e) Renewal of License.— 8 "(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in sec-9 tion 309(k)(2), the Commission may grant a renewal 10 for a license issued under subsection (b), a grant of 11 market access under subsection (c), or an authoriza-12 tion granted under subsection (l), upon request by 13 an applicant for a term not to exceed the length of 14 the initial term beginning the day after the date on 15 which the previous license, grant of market access, or authorization expires, if the Commission deter-16 17 mines the requirements under subsection (d) and 18 section 309(k) have been met. 19 "(2) Deadline for determination.—Not 20 later than 180 days after the date on which the 21 Commission receives a request for renewal of a li-22 cense issued under subsection (b), a grant of market 23 access under subsection (c), or an authorization 24 granted under subsection (1), the Commission 25 shall—

1	"(A) grant or deny such renewal; or
2	"(B) make the determination described in
3	section $309(k)(3)$.
4	"(f) Modification of License; Grant of Market
5	Access.—
6	"(1) Major modifications.—Except as pro-
7	vided in paragraph (3) and not later than 1 year
8	after the date on which the Commission receives a
9	request to modify an application granted under sub-
10	section (b)(1), the Commission shall grant the re-
11	quest if the Commission determines the modification
12	meets the requirement of subsection (d). The Com-
13	mission may grant a request to modify an applica-
14	tion submitted under subsection (b)(2) or subsection
15	(e) if the Commission determines the modification
16	meets the requirement of subsection (d).
17	"(2) Expedited treatment for minor
18	MODIFICATIONS.—The Commission shall grant a re-
19	quest made by an applicant to modify an application
20	granted under subsection (b)(1) not later than 90
21	days after the date on which the Commission re-
22	ceives the request to modify if—
23	"(A) the request does not exceed the quan-
24	tifiable level of protection described in sub-
25	section $(g)(2)$; and

1	"(B) the request is limited only to modi-
2	fications, or a class of modifications, that—
3	"(i) increase transmission capacity;
4	"(ii) improve spectral efficiency, such
5	as by improving compression technologies;
6	"(iii) improve the orbital variance effi-
7	ciency of the constellation;
8	"(iv) seek to replace one space station
9	in the constellation with a substantially
10	similar space station; or
11	"(v) otherwise do not substantially
12	modify the constellation.
13	"(3) Emergency modification.—If the Com-
14	mission finds that there are extraordinary cir-
15	cumstances requiring temporary operations in the
16	public interest and that delay in the institution of
17	such temporary operations would seriously prejudice
18	the public interest, the Commission—
19	"(A) may grant a license described in sub-
20	section (b), a grant of market access described
21	in subsection (c), or an authorization described
22	in subsection (l), a modification of such license,
23	grant of market access, or authorization, or re-
24	newal of such license, grant of market access,
25	or authorization for 180 days in a manner and

1	upon the terms the Commission shall by rule
2	prescribe in the case of an emergency found by
3	the Commission involving—
4	"(i) danger to life or property; or
5	"(ii) when such action is necessary for
6	the national defense or security of the
7	United States;
8	"(B) shall include with a grant made in
9	this paragraph a statement of the reasons of
10	the Commission for making such grant;
11	"(C) may extend a grant made under this
12	paragraph for periods not to exceed 180 days;
13	and
14	"(D) shall give expeditious treatment to
15	any timely filed petition to deny such applica-
16	tion and to any petition for rehearing of such
17	grant filed under section 405.
18	"(4) Exclusion.—Paragraph (2) shall not
19	apply to a request to modify a license for—
20	"(A) the addition of an ancillary terrestrial
21	component; or
22	"(B) modifying the service offered under
23	the initial license granted under subsection (b)
24	between fixed and mobile service.

1	"(g) Shared Spectrum; Protection From Harm-
2	FUL INTERFERENCE.—
3	"(1) Good faith coordination of shared
4	SPECTRUM.—A licensee of a license granted under
5	subsection (b)(1), a grantee of market access grant-
6	ed under subsection $(c)(1)$, or a licensee or grantee
7	treated as such under section 2(d) of the Satellite
8	and Telecommunications Streamlining Act of 2021,
9	in a spectrum band with service rules that require
10	such licensees or grantees to share spectrum, shall
11	be required to coordinate in good faith with any
12	other licensee or grantee authorized in the spectrum
13	band in which another license was granted under
14	subsection (b)(1) or grantee was granted under sub-
15	section $(c)(1)$.
16	"(2) Protection from Harmful inter-
17	FERENCE.—For any spectrum band in which the
18	Commission grants a license under subsection $(b)(1)$
19	or a grant of market access under subsection (c)(1),
20	the Commission shall establish a quantifiable level of
21	protection that a licensee of a license granted under
22	subsection $(b)(1)$ or a grantee of market access
23	granted under subsection $(c)(1)$ (or a licensee or
24	grantee treated as such under section 2(d) of the
25	Satellite and Telecommunications Streamlining Act

1 of 2021) shall afford to another such licensee or 2 grantee operating in the same spectrum band. 3 "(3) Consideration required.—When estab-4 lishing the quantifiable level of protection described 5 in paragraph (2), the Commission shall ensure the 6 benefit to improved coordination among licensees 7 and grantees outweighs any costs associated with the 8 implementation of such protection. 9 "(4) Sunset of inter-processing round 10 PROTECTIONS.—In the case of a license or grant of 11 market access granted in a processing round before 12 the date of the enactment of this section, the Com-13 mission shall protect a license granted under sub-14 section (b)(1) or a grant of market access under 15 subsection (c)(1) and that has deployed a level of service commensurate with the terms of their license 16 17 or grant of market access from harmful interference 18 caused by another licensee or grantee that was 19 granted in a processing round after the license, until 20 a date determined in the rules required to be adopt-21 ed by the Commission under section 2(e) of the Sat-22 ellite and Telecommunications Streamlining Act of 23 2021. 24 "(h) STATE PREEMPTION OF MARKET ENTRY; RATES.—Notwithstanding any provision of law, no State

or local government shall have any authority to regulate the entry of or the rates charged by an applicant or licensee related to a license granted under subsection (b), 3 4 an applicant or grantee related to a grant of market access granted under subsection (c), or an applicant or entity re-6 lated to an authorization under subsection (l), except that this subsection shall not prohibit a State from regulating 8 the other terms and conditions of such licensee, grantee, 9 or entity. 10 "(i) NATIONAL SECURITY; LAW ENFORCEMENT; Public Safety.—Notwithstanding section 309(k)(2), the 12 Commission may not impose any limitation, condition, or restriction on a license granted under this section in a manner that will, or is reasonably likely to, result in limi-14 15 tation, denial, or revocation of authority for services authorized by the Commission which are used by and re-16 17 quired for a national security agency or law enforcement department or agency of the United States to protect the 18 19 health and safety of the public. 20 "(j) REGULATORY RESTRAINT.— 21 "(1) LIMITATION OF INFORMATION PRO-22 VIDED.—In addition to the requirements described 23 in section 307(c)(2), in performing any act, making 24 any rule or regulation, or issuing any order nec-

essary to carry out this section, the Commission—

25

1	"(A) shall limit the information required to
2	be furnished to the Commission;
3	"(B) shall demonstrate the Commission
4	has taken every reasonable step to limit the in-
5	formation required to be furnished to the Com-
6	mission; and
7	"(C) may not request additional informa-
8	tion regarding the performance objectives estab-
9	lished in subsection (a)(1)(A) for any case in
10	which an applicant has demonstrated compli-
11	ance with such performance objectives.
12	"(2) Deadline for petition determina-
13	TION.—If an applicant for a license or a licensee
14	under subsection (b) files a petition under part 1,
15	title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or any suc-
16	cessor regulation) relating to information required to
17	be furnished to the Commission under this section,
18	the Commission shall grant or deny the petition
19	within 90 days after the date on which the petition
20	is filed.
21	["(k) Relation to Experimental Licenses.—
22	[].]
23	"(l) Earth Station Authorization.—
24	"(1) Determination required.—[Notwith-
25	standing sections 4(i), 303(r), and 303(y), section

1	309(a), and subsections (a) through (k) of this sec-
2	tion, not later than 1 year after the date on which
3	a written application is submitted to the Commis-
4	sion, the Commission shall make a determination
5	whether to grant such application for authorization
6	to use an earth station (including a gateway station)
7	to receive a signal from—
8	"(A) a nongeostationary orbit satellite or
9	nongeostationary orbit satellite system; or
10	"(B) a geostationary orbit satellite or geo-
11	stationary orbit satellite system.
12	"(2) DEEMED GRANTED.—If the Commission
13	does not grant or deny a written application sub-
14	mitted under paragraph (1) within 60 days after the
15	date on which the application is submitted to the
16	Commission, except as provided in paragraph (3),
17	the application shall be deemed granted on the date
18	on which the Commission receives a written notice of
19	the failure by the applicant.
20	"(3) Exception.—The deadline for the deter-
21	mination required in paragraph (1) may be extended
22	by the Commission for an application subject to re-
23	view under section 310(d).
24	["(m) Orbital Variance Efficiency Defined.—
25	In this section, the term 'orbital variance efficiency' means

1	the mean of the distance between the actual altitude of
2	each space station and the authorized altitude for each
3	space station authorized under subsection (b)(1).".
4	(b) Relation to Other Law Amendments.—The
5	Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) is
6	amended—
7	(1) in section $309(j)(2)$ —
8	(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
9	(A), by inserting ", grants of market access,
10	authorizations," after "licenses";
11	(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ";
12	or" and inserting a semicolon;
13	(C) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as
14	subparagraph (D); and
15	(D) by inserting after subparagraph (B)
16	the following new subparagraph:
17	"(C) for licenses, grants of market access,
18	or authorizations granted under section 345;
19	or'';
20	(2) in section 309(k)—
21	(A) in the heading, by striking "Broad-
22	CAST STATION RENEWAL PROCEDURES" and
23	inserting "Renewal Procedures for Cer-
24	TAIN AUTHORIZATIONS";
25	(B) in paragraph (1)—

1	(i) in the matter preceding subpara-
2	graph (A)—
3	(I) by inserting ", the licensee of
4	a license granted under section
5	345(b), the grantee of a grant of mar-
6	ket access granted under section
7	345(e), or an authorization granted
8	under section 345(l)," after "broad-
9	cast station";
10	(II) by inserting ", grant, or au-
11	thorization" after "such license"; and
12	(III) by striking "that station"
13	and inserting "that licensee, grantee,
14	or entity with authorization";
15	(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
16	"the station" and inserting "in the case of
17	a broadcast station, the station";
18	(iii) by redesignating subparagraphs
19	(B) and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and
20	(D), respectively;
21	(iv) by inserting after subparagraph
22	(A) the following:
23	"(B) in the case of a licensee of a license
24	granted under section 345(b), a grantee of a
25	grant of market access granted under section

1	345(c), or an entity with authorization granted
2	under section 345(l), the licensee, grantee, or
3	entity has served the public interest, conven-
4	ience, and necessity in accordance with section
5	345(d);";
6	(v) in subparagraph (C), as so redes-
7	ignated, by inserting ", grantee, or entity"
8	after "licensee"; and
9	(vi) in subparagraph (D), as so redes-
10	ignated, by inserting ", grantee, or entity"
11	after "licensee";
12	(C) in paragraph (2), by inserting ", or the
13	licensee of a license granted under section
14	345(b), the grantee of a grant of market access
15	under section 345(c), or an entity with author-
16	ization granted under section 345(l)," after
17	"broadcast station"; and
18	(D) in paragraph (3)—
19	(i) in the matter preceding subpara-
20	graph (A), by striking "that a licensee"
21	and inserting "that a broadcast station, a
22	licensee of a license granted under section
23	345(b), a grantee of market access granted
24	under section 345(c), or an entity with au-
25	thorization granted under section 345(l)";

1	(ii) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
2	"or 345" after "section 308"; and
3	(iii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting
4	"or under section 345 specifying the infor-
5	mation required by the Commission under
6	section $345(b)(3)$, section $345(c)(2)$, or
7	section 345(l)(1) (as the case may be) of
8	the former licensee, grantee, or entity"
9	after "former licensee"; and
10	(3) in section 310(b), by inserting "or license,
11	grant of market access, or authorization granted
12	under subsections (b), (c), or (l) of section 345"
13	after "radio station license".
14	(c) Applicability.—The requirements in the
15	amendments made by this section apply with respect to
16	any application submitted under subsections (b), (c), or
17	(l) of section 345 of the Communications Act of 1934 and
18	any request for renewal or modification under such sec-
19	tion, as added by subsection (b), on or after the effective
20	date of such amendments.
21	(d) Treatment of Certain Licenses.—A licensee
22	with a license to provide a substantially similar service to
23	a license granted under section 345(b) of the Communica-
24	tions Act of 1934, a grantee with a grant of market access
25	to provide a substantially similar service to a grant of mar-

- 1 ket access granted under section 345(c) of such Act, or
- 2 an entity with authorization to provide a substantially
- 3 similar service to an authorization that was granted under
- 4 section 345(1) of such Act, as added by subsection (a),
- 5 that was granted before the effective date of such section
- 6 345, shall be treated as being licensed under section
- 7 345(b), granted under section 345(c), or authorized under
- 8 section 345(l) (as the case may be).
- 9 (e) Effective Date.—Except for any requirement
- 10 to issue a rule, this section, and the amendments made
- 11 by this section, shall be effective on the date on which the
- 12 Federal Communications Commission issues the rules pur-
- 13 suant to section 345 of the Communications Act of 1934,
- 14 as added by subsection (a).